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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A nickel-metal hydride electrochemical cell, comprising:

a positive electrode including a nickel-hydroxide active material;

a negative electrode including a hydrogen storage alloy active material;

a separator electrical insulating said positive electrode ~~from~~ from said negative electrode, said separator having a hi-pot resistance greater than 400 volts, and an ionic resistance less than 15 ohm-cm; and

an alkaline electrolyte.

2. (original) The electrochemical cell of claim 1, wherein said separator has an absorbency between 30% and 50% relative to said alkaline electrolyte at 100 psi.

3. (original) The electrochemical cell of claim 1, wherein said separator has an absorbency between 35% and 48% relative to said alkaline electrolyte at 100 psi.

4. (original) The electrochemical cell of claim 1, wherein said separator has an absorbency between 38% and 46% relative to said alkaline electrolyte at 100 psi.

5. (original) The electrochemical cell of claim 1, wherein said separator has a hi-pot resistance greater than 500 volts.
6. (original) The electrochemical cell of claim 1, wherein said separator has an ionic resistance less than 12 ohms-cm.
7. (original) The electrochemical cell of claim 1, wherein said separator has an ionic resistance less than 10 ohm-cm.
8. (original) The electrochemical cell of claim 1, wherein said alkaline electrolyte is an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydroxide.
9. (original) The electrochemical cell of claim 8, wherein said alkali metal hydroxide comprises potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide.